

2020 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE WORCESTER

Funded Partners: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, Main South CDC, Worcester Community Action Council, Worcester Police Department, Worcester Youth Center

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation*

Total Funding: \$1,192,460

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	261 Received Case Management Services	212 Successfully Referred to Youth Development Services	\$141,670
Education & Employment	29 Participated in Education Programs	67 Participated in Employment Programs	\$136,002
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	723 Participated in Youth Development Programs 299 Developed Leadership Skills	522 Participated in Recreation Programs 190 Engaged in Volunteer Work or Community Service	\$726,624
Suppression	82 Hot Spot Patrols Completed	100 Law Enforcement Supported Home Visits	\$188,164

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations.

Youth Risk Assessments

46% LOW-RISK*	Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
43% MODERATE-RISK*	Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
11% HIGH-RISK*	Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Success Highlight

"Participant O stated that she was grateful for the support she received from the Worcester Youth Center. She had just lost a parent and stated that even though she was a new member of the organization, she felt like she had found a family with her peers and the positive support she needed from adults. She stated she was grateful to receive her first job through the Center and an outlet for her to express how her life has been impacted by COVID-19."

~Worcester Youth Center

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Thomas A. Turco III, Secretary
To learn more visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Worcester

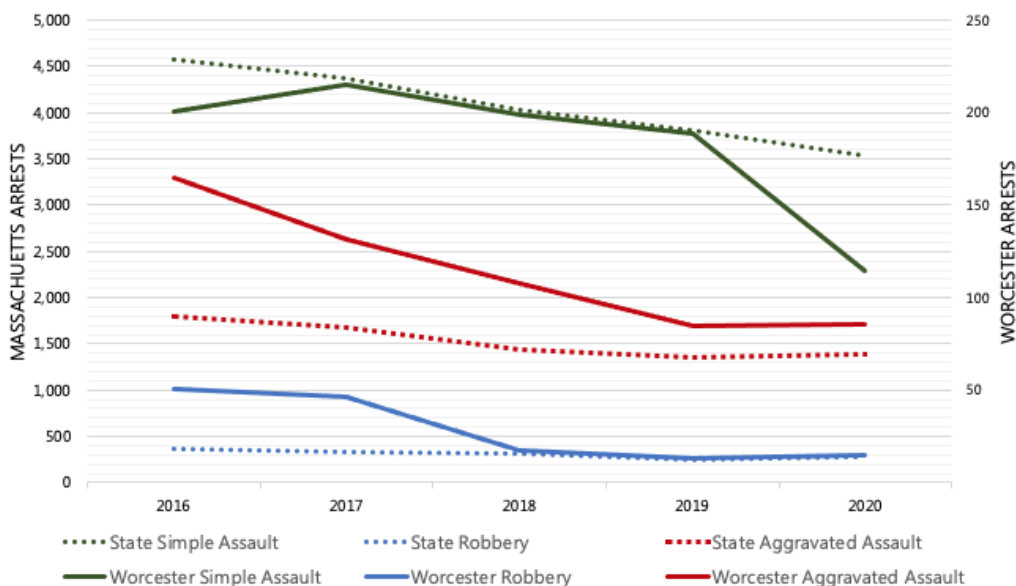
Total Population (2019 Estimate)	6,892,503	185,428
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	21.1%
Unemployment Rate	8.0%	10.3%
Total School Population (2019-20)	983,058	28,620
Economically Disadvantaged	36.6%	64.3%
High School Dropout Rate	1.8%	2.6%

Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu/; www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/

Gang Activity in Worcester

23 Street Gangs	In 2020, Worcester Police Department's Gang Unit confirmed 23 gangs – including Kilby Street Posse, PVE, and Providence Street Posse– comprising approximately 1396 gang members, of whom roughly 23% were under the age of 25. Recruitment of gang members occurred mainly through social media.
326 Gang Members Under 25	Gang activity included burglary, drug offenses, human trafficking, weapons offenses, and shootings.

5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020



Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020*

Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 23%
- Worcester decreased 43%

Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 24%
- Worcester decreased 71%

Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 22%
- Worcester decreased 48%

*Worcester December data not available at time of publication.

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, the Center on Crime and Community Resilience at Northeastern University, for preparing this brief.